

In the claims:

1. (currently amended) A prosthetic orthopedic implant assembly comprising:

an implant body; and

an elastomeric cover connected to said implant body by a mechanical fastener, wherein the implant body is ball-shaped and includes a tooth for contacting an inner surface of the elastomeric cover, wherein the elastomeric cover covers at least a portion of said ball-shaped implant body, and wherein the contact between the tooth and the inner surface of the elastomeric body forms a fluid-tight seal for preventing fluid from seeping between the elastomeric cover and the implant body.

2. (original) The prosthetic orthopedic implant assembly according to claim 1, wherein the mechanical fastener comprises a tongue-and-groove connection.

3. (original) The prosthetic orthopedic implant assembly according to claim 2, wherein the tongue-and-groove connection comprises at least one indentation on an exterior surface of the implant body and at least one protrusion on an interior surface of the elastomeric cover and wherein the at least one protrusion is received in the at least one indentation.

4. (original) The prosthetic orthopedic implant assembly according to claim 3, wherein the at least one indentation comprises an annular groove on the exterior surface of the implant body.

5. (currently amended) The prosthetic orthopedic implant assembly according to claim ~~1~~4, wherein the implant body is ball-shaped, wherein the elastomeric cover covers at least a portion of the ball-shaped implant body, and wherein the ball-shaped implant body includes a ridge encircling a portion of the implant body adapted to prevent said elastomeric cover from becoming detached from an exterior surface of said implant body.

6. (cancelled)

7. (currently amended) The prosthetic orthopedic implant assembly according to claim ~~6~~5, wherein the mechanical fastener comprises a tongue-and-groove connection between the implant body and the elastomeric cover, and wherein the tooth protrudes from a groove portion of the tongue-and-groove connection.

8-20. (cancelled)